

## MEASURING EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN HAWAII'S LEGISLATURE

The State of Hawaii is composed of four basic island units that equate with the four counties in the State (Maui and Kalawao counties are administratively treated as one county – Maui County). The Hawaii Constitution calls for equal representation among the four counties (basic island units) during the reapportionment process. In 1981 and 1991, this equality was achieved through the use of canoe districts. The proposed 2001 reapportionment also uses canoe districts to achieve this equality among counties.

There has been significant public comment urging the commission to look at ways to eliminate canoe districts. Some have urged the commission to abandon the 10% deviation standard that is required for the plan to be presumed constitutional. Traditionally, this deviation standard has been calculated twice, once for the State Senate and once for the State House. Each one has been required to be under the 10% threshold. The current population distribution, particularly the population on Kauai, makes it impossible to achieve two separate targets without using canoe districts.

There may be times, however, when the population distribution can allow a trade-off between the senate/house representations within each county. This means that a county would be under-represented in one house, and equally over-represented in the other. Since one-half of a State House seat, is approximately equal to one-fourth of a State Senate seat, a county that is over or under by one-fourth of a Senate district, and over or under by one-half of a State House district, could balance one off against the other to achieve a combined representation that is in balance with the other counties. This would have to work for all four counties to totally eliminate canoe districts.

It turns out that for the 2001 state population base this is possible. All four counties have approximately one-half House seat (which are canoed in the proposed plan). Two of the four counties (Kauai and Hawaii) have an extra one-fourth of a State Senate seat. By “giving up” this one-fourth Senate seat, each of these counties gains a full House seat. The other two counties (Oahu and Maui) are short by one-fourth of a Senate seat. By “giving up” their one-half House seat, each of these counties gains a full Senate seat. In this way combined representational equality is maintained among the counties and canoe districts are eliminated.

The numbers behind this method are shown in the attached table.

## COMBINED SENATE/HOUSE DEVIATIONS

	Population					
<b>Statewide</b>	1164468	Seats	Target			Deviation**
	Senate	25	46579			
	House	51	22833			<b>2.75%</b>

<b>Kauai</b>	Population	Proposed	Target	Actual		BIU
	58386	Seats	Population	Population	Difference	Deviation*
	Senate	1	46579	58386	11807	
	House	3	68499	58386	-10113	
	combined		115078	116772	1694	<b>1.47%</b>

<b>Honolulu</b>	Population	Proposed	Target	Actual		BIU
	830176	Seats	Population	Population	Difference	Deviation*
	Senate	18	838422	830176	-8246	
	House	36	821988	830176	8188	
	combined		1660410	1660352	-58	<b>0.00%</b>

<b>Maui</b>	Population	Proposed	Target	Actual		BIU
	128029	Seats	Population	Population	Difference	Deviation*
	Senate	3	139737	128029	-11708	
	House	5	114165	128029	13864	
	combined		253902	256058	2156	<b>0.85%</b>

<b>Hawaii</b>	Population	Proposed	Target	Actual		BIU
	147877	Seats	Population	Population	Difference	Deviation*
	Senate	3	139737	147877	8140	
	House	7	159831	147877	-11954	
	combined		299568	295754	-3814	<b>-1.27%</b>

\* Basic Island Unit percent deviation from target

\*\* Statewide deviation is largest BIU deviation minus smallest BIU deviation

## EAST HONOLULU VS. WEST HONOLULU "ROTTEN BOROUGHs"

**It takes 5,000 more voters in East Honolulu**

*[rot'ten bor'ough, 1. (before the Reform Bill of 1832) an English borough that had very few voters but was represented in Parliament.*

*2. An election district that has more representatives in a legislative body than the number of constituents would normally call for. (1805-1815)]*

### THREE (3) EAST HONOLULU DISTRICTS - REGISTRATION & TURN-OUT & 2000 CENSUS - POPULATION (as adjusted by Commission)

DIST. NO.	AREA	ADJ. POP.	REGIS.	TURN-OUT	% Population Voting
17.	(Kahala/Waialae Iki)	20,402	14,779	10,068	49.3%
16.	(Niu Valley/Aina Haina)	20,008	13,969	9,060	45.3%
15.	(Hawaii Kai, Portlock)	19,586	13,755	8,995	45.7%
Totals		59,996	42,503	28,123	46.9%
Average		19,999	14,168	9,374	

### SIX (6) OAHU DISTRICTS - LOWEST REGISTRATION & TURN-OUT (2000) & 2000 CENSUS - POPULATION (as adjusted by Commission)

DIST. NO.	AREA	ADJ. POP.	REGIS.	TURN-OUT	% Population Voting
30.	(Kalihi Kai, Mapunapuna)	17,636	7,813	3,524	20.0%
29.	(Kalihi/Moanalua)	20,405	8,331	4,432	21.7%
32.	(Aiea/Salt Lake)	30,366	10,356	4,761	15.7%
Totals		68,407	26,500	12,717	18.6%
Average:		22,802	8,333	4,239	

**NO. VOTING PER 3 EAST HONOLULU DISTRICTS: 9,374**

**NO. VOTING PER 3 WEST HONOLULU DISTRICTS: 4,239**

**DIFFERENCE: 5,135\***

Most extreme example: According to the present plan, House District 17 will have to add 2228 to the base. If 49.3% of them vote, House District 17 then will have 11,166 voters. According to the present plans, House District 32 will have to subtract 7,533 persons from the base. If 15.7% of them are voters, then House District 32 will then have 3,578 voters. The difference between districts 17 and 32 for next years election will be 7,588 voters and district 17 will have THREE TIMES as many voters!!!!!!

### WHAT ARE THE KEY INGREDIENTS FOR THIS DIFFERENCE?

\*The counting of non-citizens and non-residents (i.e., non-voters) in the apportionment base.

*One man, one vote?*